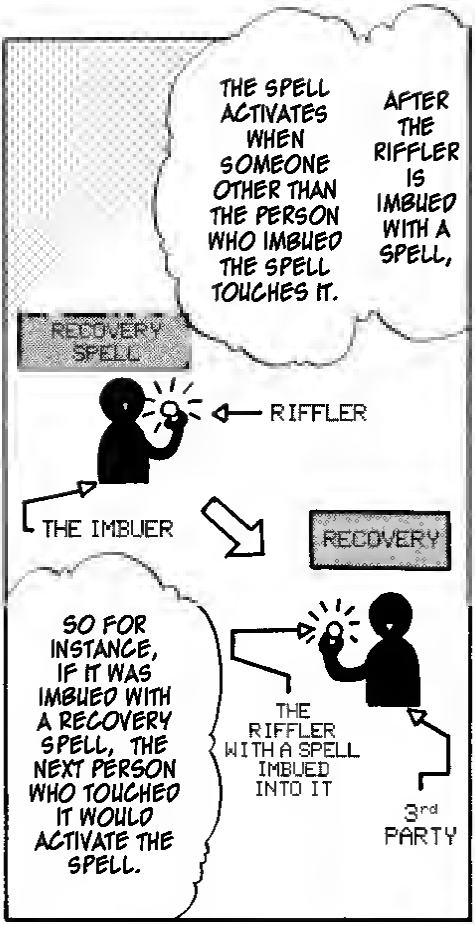
CHAPTER 3 — BREACH THE IMPREGNABLE FORTRESS!

WHAT
I'LL TAKE ALL OF THESE, MISTER.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
ER... IF YOU INSIST.
OH, AND THEY'RE REEAALLY BEAT UP, SO YOU'LL KNOCK THE PRICE DOWN FOR ME, RIGHT? THANKS.
WHAT'S WITH ALL THE BOOKS, LINA?
ACTUALLY, I THINK I'VE STUMBLED ONTO SOME USEFUL INFORMATION.
THIS TOME BRIEFLY MENTIONS A TREASURE LEFT BEHIND BY A SORCERER WHO LIVED LONG AGO...

SOUNDS LIKE WE'RE GOING ON A TREASURE HUNT, HUH?
AND THIS ONE SAYS RIGHT WHERE THE TREASURE IS HIDDEN.
AND THIS ONE SAYS A LITTLE SOMETHING ABOUT WHAT THE TREASURE CAN DO,
THIS GUY WAS TOTALLY FIRST-RATE, TOO. HE GUARDED HIS TREASURE WITH A SERIES OF ELABORATE TRAPS THAT, TO THIS DAY, NO ONE'S EVER BEEN ABLE TO GET PAST.
CONSIDERING ALL THE FACTS, IT LOOKS LIKE IT'S HIDDEN NEARBY!
DING! DING! DING!
YOU GOT IT!
HUH...
YOU JUST WANT TO MAKE SOME FAST COIN AND YOU KNOW IT.
OF COURSE!
A SORCERESS NEVER LETS A DAY GO BY WITHOUT DEVOTING HERSELF TO THE STUDY OF HER CRAFT!
WAIT, SO WE'RE LEAVING NOW?
THAT'S THE SORT OF TREASURE A FELLOW PRACTITIONER OF MAGIC SUCH AS MYSELF NEEDS TO PAY HER RESPECTS TO!
TMP TMP

I... THINK THIS IS THE PLACE?
I'VE SEEN SOME CREEPY CAVES IN MY TIME, BUT THIS... WOW.
I DON'T KNOW IF THIS TREASURE IS GOING TO BE EVERYTHING YOU HOPE FOR, LINA...
HOW SPECIAL CAN IT BE IF THIS IS WHERE THEY STASHED IT...?


AFTER THE RIFFLER IS IMBUED WITH A SPELL,
THE SPELL ACTIVATES WHEN SOMEONE OTHER THAN THE PERSON WHO IMBUED THE SPELL TOUCHES IT.
RECOVERY SPELL
RIFFLER
THE IMBUER
RECOVERY
SO FOR INSTANCE, IF IT WAS IMBUED WITH A RECOVERY SPELL, THE NEXT PERSON WHO TOUCHED IT WOULD ACTIVATE THE SPELL.
THE RIFFLER WITH A SPELL IMBUED INTO IT
3rd PARTY

HEY!
ARE YOU QUESTIONING MY TASTE IN TREASURE, GOURRY?
OKAY, FINE. SINCE YOU DON'T SEEM TO UNDER-STAND, I'LL ENLIGHTEN YOU.

THE TREASURE HIDDEN IN THIS CAVE..
...IS A MAGIC ITEM CALLED THE "RIFFLER."
WHAT MAKES IT SO SPECIAL IS THAT YOU CAN STORE SPELLS INSIDE OF IT.

WELL, WELL...
LOOKS LIKE WE GOT SOME COMPETITION.

SEE?
IT'D BE HANDY TO HAVE AROUND.
YEAH, I GUESS.

SLASH!
HMPH!
WOOSH!
KA-TUNK
WOW! NICE GOING, GOURRY!
YOU CUT DOWN THAT TRAP LIKE IT WAS NOTHING!
KA-TUNK KA-TUNK KA-TUNK
HEH. YOU THOUGHT THAT WAS GOOD? YOU AIN'T SEEN NOTHING YET!

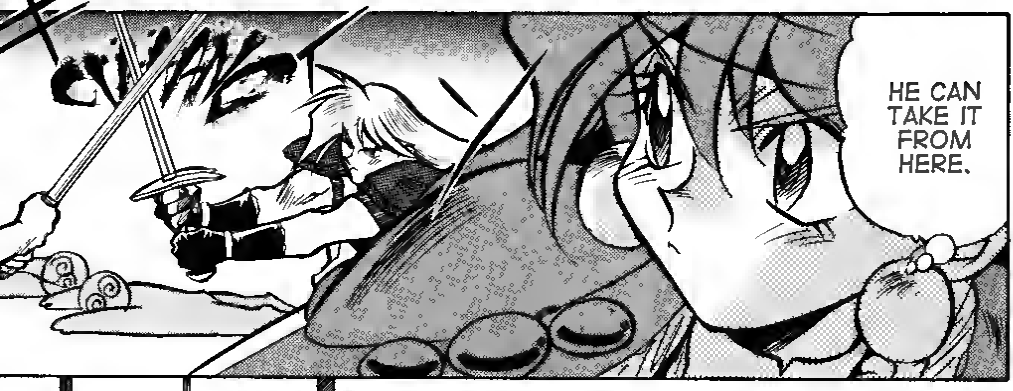
I GUESS THAT'S ONE WAY TO DO IT.
I TH...
I THINK I OVER-DID IT...
HUFF, HUFF, PANT

OKAY, NEXT WE HAVE TO GET PAST THIS DOOR.
BOY, IS IT EVER HUGE!
STAND BACK. I'LL GET IT OPEN.
AH!
GOURRY, WAIT.
THERE'S A MAGIC TRAP SET ON IT.
GIVE ME A SEC TO DISPEL IT, FIRST.
SHOO...
ぎょろろろ

WHO'S THERE ?!
THERE, NOW IT'S SAFE FOR...
AWRIGHT, DA BOTH UH YOU'S CAN STOP RIGHT THERE.
WHAT, YUH THOUGHT YOU WAS THE ONLY ONES AFTER DIS LOOT?
GOTTA HAND IT TO YUH THOUGH, GOOD JOB GETTIN' RID O' THEM TRAPS...
ME 'N MY BOYS REALLY OWE YUH ONE.
YOU WAITED FOR US TO CLEAR A PATH SO YOU COULD STEAL THE TREASURE FROM RIGHT UNDER OUR NOSES?
YOU LOW-DOWN, DIRTY CROOKS !
WHAT GOOD IS TO YOU, ANYWAY? YOU'RE NOT EVEN SORCERERS!

YEAH!
LET'S DO THIS, GOURRY!
DAMMIT! I CAN'T USE ANY OF MY GOOD SPELLS DOWN HERE...
LEAD Y
THEY CALL US THIEVES FOR A REASON, KID!
NOW GIT READY TO EAT DIRT!
THAT TREASURE 'S GOOD AS OURS!
CHANG!
WAH!
FLARE ARROW!
HOT, HOT, HOT!

CLANG
CLANG


CLANG
HE CAN TAKE IT FROM HERE.

NOW, THE TREASURE VAULT SHOULD BE JUST PAST THIS DOOR...
SNEAK

THIS MUST BE WHERE THE KEY TO THE CHEST GOES.
HMM...
WELL, I GUESS THIS ANSWERS THAT QUES-TION.
I DOUBT IT, BUT... IT CAN'T HURT TO BE SURE.
KREE...
WOW... LOOK AT THIS PLACE.
MORE LIKE A SHRINE THAN A VAULT, IF YOU ASK ME.
HM?
HARD TO BELIEVE I'M STILL INSIDE SOME CREEPY CAVE.

JUST DROP THE SWORD AND YOU CAN LEAVE WITH YOUR—
IT'S JUST YOU AND ME NOW.
HUFF ぜー
HUFF ぜー!
THAT'S ENOUGH, BOTH OF YOU!!
AS MUCH AS I HATE SAYING THIS... THE TREASURE GOES TO THE ROBBER.
I'VE TRIED EVERYTHING I COULD THINK OF, BUT I JUST CAN'T BREAK INTO THAT CHEST.
NOW USE THOSE SKILLS HONED BY GENERATIONS OF THIEVES BEFORE YOU TO CLAIM WHAT'S RIGHTFULLY YOURS!

LEMME SHOW YUH HOW DIS MASTER WORKS.
COME ON, TAKE COVER!
SHUFFLE
SHUFFLE
?
NA-HA-HA! MAYBE YOU AIN'T SO DUMB, AFTER ALL!
STRUT
STRUT
HEH!
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, LINO?
whisper whisper
QUIET, GOURRY...!
WELL, DAT WAS EASY.
.....
IS DIS ALL...?
chik chik
PING!

GLOW
GLOW
GLOW
H-HUH?
WHAS-SAT?
RMBL
NOW THE TREASURE'S MINE FER TH'...
T-TWI-TCH
KER SMASH!
AAAHHH!!

DON'T TELL ME DAT WAS THE LAST TRAP?!
WH-WHY'D A BUNCH'A GOLEMS BUST OUTTA THE WALL?!
STOMP STOMP STOMP
D'ARGH! THAT ROTTEN LIL' BRAT TRICKED ME!
A FLAWLESS VICTORY!

shff
A treasure crafted by the hands of one of the great minds of magic, years and years ago... And it's all mine! ♡
Oh, at last...
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
WHAT ?!
WH-

FOR THE LOVE OF-
HE'S COMING BACK !?
HEY!
YER GONNA PAY FOR MAKIN' ME TAKE TH' FALL, YA LITTLE TWERP!
THE TREASURE'S MINE, SO HANDS OFF!
HERE THEY COME!!
THERE'S ONLY ONE THING WE CAN DO.
T'CH!
DODGE IT!
OH YEAH, THAT WORKS.
HEY !!

KER-BLAM!!
BLAM!
BOOM!
THOSE GOLEMS ARE SO FOCUSED ON THAT THAT THING, THEY'RE GONNA PULL THIS WHOLE SHRINE DOWN AROUND US TRYING TO GET IT BACK...
EITHER WAY, THE TREASURE'S OURS NOW,
SO LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
crumble
crumble
!

LINA, WHAT DO WE DO?! YOU KNOW THESE THINGS AREN'T GONNA LET UP EVEN ONCE WE GET TO THE SURFACE!
HRM...
STOMP STOMP STOMP
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!
AAAAAH! THEY'RE TURNING AROUUU-UND!
KU-KU-KU

BUT IF WE KEEP THEM ALL IN A GROUP...
NO... THAT WOULD BE A WASTE OF TIME.
WE COULD MAKE THEM FOLLOW US UP TO THE SURFACE AND PICK THEM OFF ONE BY ONE...

W-WHOA, WHOA, WHOA! LINA, YOU AREN'T SERIOUSLY GONNA USE THAT SPELL HERE, ARE YOU?!
more crimson are you than flowing red blood...
... Darker are you than the deepest twilight,
...I'VE GOT AN IDEA!

HUH?
GLOW
HEY, BOULDER-BRAINS! I'VE GOT YOUR TREASURE RIGHT HERE!
SWIPP!
NOW TAKE IT BACK!!

Run for it, Gourry!
HP
CLAP

WAS THAT AN ACTUAL DRAGON SLAVE?!
DARN RIGHT IT WAS!
MAN!
PUT A SPELL INSIDE THE RIFFLER, AND IT ACTIVATES THE MOMENT SOMEONE ELSE TOUCHES IT. THAT WAS A LIVE DEMONSTRATION OF HOW IT WORKS.
THOSE GOLEMS HAD NO IDEA THEY WERE ABOUT TO GET BLOWN TO SMITHEREENS BY THE RIFFLER THEY WERE CHASING AFTER.
GET IT?
Yeah, but... naturally's getting out of there now.
KA-
FLASH
BOOM

SKFF
...USING THAT TUNNELING SPELL SAVED US SOME TIME, SO THAT'S GREAT AND ALL...
BUT I'M STILL NOT FINDING IT.
WHERE IN THE WORLD DID THAT RIFFLER GET BURIED...?
HEY!
I THINK I FOUND IT, LINA.
HERE.
IT'S THAT RE... UH, THAT TREA-SURE THING.
OH!
YOU'RE RIGHT! IT IS!
GOOD WORK, GOU—

—RRY?
GRUMBLE
...I GUESS IT WASN'T MUCH OF A MATCH FOR THE DRAGON SLAVE, HUH?
NOW I'M WORKIN' FOR FREE
HAH! HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A FIRST-RATE SORCERER BACK IN HIS TIME...
BUT DEAD OR ALIVE, HE'S NO MATCH FOR LINA INVERSE, THE SUPER-TALENTED SORCERESS OF TODAY!
ADMIT IT...
YOU'RE JUST MAD.

SLAYERS

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